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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/848)]

45/187. Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/233 of 22 December 1989, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/86 of 27 July 1990 and World Health Assembly resolution WHA 43.10 of 16 May 1990 on women, children and AIDS, 1/ as well as other relevant resolutions adopted by the organizations of the United Nations system,

Taking note of the Paris Declaration on Women, Children and the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), adopted on 30 November 1989, the discussions of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS held at San Francisco, United States of America, from 20 to 24 June 1990, the Fifth International Conference on AIDS and Associated Cancer, held at Kinshasa, Zaire, from 10 to 12 October 1990 and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, adopted by the World Summit for Children on 30 September 1990, 2/

Noting with appreciation the established leadership and co-ordinating role of the World Health Organization, and the efforts of other organizations of the United

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1/ See World Health Organization, Forty-third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 7-17 May 1990, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA 43/1990/REC/1).

2/ A/45/625, annex.

Nations system, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors, in combating the spread of AIDS,

Stressing the need to take full advantage of the World Health Organization/United Nations Development Programme Alliance to Combat AIDS and to strengthen its role in facilitating implementation at the country level of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS,

Acknowledging that AIDS can have severe social and economic consequences, particularly in countries with a high incidence of infection from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), overburdened public health services and limited financial, developmental and skilled labour resources,

Concerned that AIDS has become a major cause of death for women aged 20 to 40 in major cities in the Americas, Western Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, that over 3 million women of child-bearing age have been infected with HIV, that the World Health Organization estimates that during the 1990s a cumulative figure of over 25 to 30 million people are expected to be infected with AIDS, that over 10 million infants and children will become infected with HIV, the vast majority of whom will have died by the year 2000, and that 10 million uninfected children under the age of 10 years will be orphaned during the 1990s as a consequence of AIDS,

Emphasizing the crucial role that other sexually transmitted diseases can play in facilitating the transmission of HIV infection,

Considering that the behaviour and life-style practices that place individuals at risk of HIV infection are likely to be established in adolescence or young adulthood and that the relatively slow progression from HIV infection to AIDS suggests that many HIV-infected individuals over 25 years of age acquired the infection in adolescence or young adulthood,

Stressing, therefore, the importance of information, education and other support targeted to young people to encourage behavioural change and to enable them to remain uninfected,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of a supportive socio-economic environment in ensuring the effective implementation of national AIDS prevention programmes and the humane care of affected persons,

Reiterating the need to respect the human rights and dignity of all people, including those affected by HIV, their families and those with whom they live,

Noting that scientific research is making progress in the development of improved diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive technologies and pharmaceuticals, and stressing the importance of making these technologies and pharmaceuticals available as soon as possible and at an affordable cost,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS; 3/

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the serious implications of the AIDS pandemic for development in general in many developing countries, to intensify his efforts, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the heads of the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to mobilize the cumulative experience of the United Nations system in the strategic planning of multi-sectoral projects and the raising of funds in support of those countries requesting assistance;

3. Urges Member States to increase their efforts to combat AIDS and to encourage national and international efforts to prevent the further spread of AIDS;

4. Calls upon governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors to continue to pay particular attention to the needs of women, young people and children and to co-ordinate their efforts with those of the World Health Organization for the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with the other organizations of the United Nations system and without prejudice to ongoing priorities and programmes, to continue to advance the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and, specifically:

(a) To emphasize the need to strengthen the primary health care system together with educational, psychological, social and economic support programmes for women, youth and children;

(b) To promote the vital role that women and young people can play in national AIDS programmes for the further prevention and control of the disease;

(c) To encourage the development of services that can meet the particular needs of young people and women for counselling on relationships and on means to reduce the risk of AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and risks associated with intravenous drug use;

(d) To support the efforts of countries to create or enhance programmes that promote the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases;

3/ A/45/256-E/1990/58, annex.

(e) To encourage countries to develop plans to meet the economic and social needs of uninfected children with HIV-infected parents or orphaned by AIDS and of elderly people left without providers and often responsible for orphaned grandchildren;

(f) To mobilize the necessary resources, both human and financial, in the health sector and other sectors, to develop and implement activities and technologies for the prevention of HIV infection/AIDS and for the care of those suffering from the disease;

(g) To ensure that the particular experience of women and children is used in the search for preventive, curative and palliative therapies so that their special needs can be better met;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to intensify, through the information capacity of the United Nations system, public information activities with respect to HIV and AIDS;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution.

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990